

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 25th Day of May 1775.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:

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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 25th Day of *May* 1775, and
concluded the 4th of *June*.

I.

The King's Commission to CHARLES
Lord CATHCART produced, and or-
dered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 25th 1775.

THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was
produced to them, by the Right Honourable
- CHARLES Lord CATHCART, the King's Com-
mission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of
Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the
Great

Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor*: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum quintum diem Maii instantis convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus, die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consilarii Caroli Domini Cathcart, quod ad summum munus rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti nos, tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consiliarium Carolum Dominum Cathcart, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ conventui Scotiæ, dando et concedendo illi plenissimam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantem, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula ab antedicto Carolo Domino Cathcart, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dict. ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque infra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Carolum Dominum Cathcart, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum revereantur, agnoscant, et dict. ipsius audientes se præbeant,
strictè

*fricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissi-
onem, a dicto vigesimo quinto die Maii instantis incipere, et
deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in
vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revoca-
bitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum no-
strum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et
loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem, utend. ordinat. presentibus appen-
di mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, unde-
cimo die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo sep-
tuagesimo quinto, regnique nostri anno decimo quinto. Per
signaturam manu S. D. N. regis superscript.*



II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

G E O R G E R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, We greet you
well. It is with great pleasure we renew the as-
surances of our favourable dispositions towards the
Church of Scotland, as we have received such constant
proofs of your duty, loyalty, and affection to our person
and government. Your zealous endeavours to promote
true religion and virtue, will ever meet with our most
gracious approbation,—and you may be assured of our
resolution to support the Church of Scotland in all its
rights and privileges, as by law established. From the
experience we have had of your steady perseverance in
the pursuit of the great objects for which you are assem-
bled, and from the reliance we have in your resolution
to continue the same laudable conduct which you have
so long pursued, we are convinced that the general good
of mankind will be the principal object of your councils;
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that you will avoid dissensions and unedifying debates in the course of your deliberations ; that they will be directed to the suppressing of every species of vice, immorality, and licentiousness,—and to the encouragement of virtue and universal benevolence.

The knowledge we have of the zeal and fidelity of our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Counsellor Charles Lord Cathcart, has induced us to appoint him to represent our Royal person in this Assembly ; and we are persuaded, that this choice will be extremely pleasing to you, as he has given so many proofs of his abilities to discharge the duties of this high office, as well as of his attention to the prosperity of the Church of Scotland.

We doubt not but temper and moderation will prevail amongst you, and that the business of the present meeting will be brought to a happy conclusion, with unanimity, charity, and brotherly love : And so we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 11th day of May 1775, in the fifteenth year of our reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

(Signed) SUFFOLK.

III. The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the
King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious Letter was received by us with the highest respect, and with the most affectionate gratitude, for that condescending proof of your Royal favour.

We esteem it as our greatest honour, that our conduct in former Assemblies has tended to confirm your Majesty in your favourable dispositions towards us,—and are happy, that the sense your Majesty is pleased to entertain of our duty, loyalty, and affection to your Majesty's person and government, as well as of the sincerity of our endeavours to promote true religion and virtue, has induced your Majesty graciously to renew your declarations of supporting this Church in all its rights and privileges, as by law established.

The confidence your Majesty is pleased to express, that we will pay a particular attention to the great objects for which we are assembled, and your reliance on the steadiness of our conduct, are most engaging motives to make us avoid dissensions and unedifying disputes in the course of our deliberations. Having the general good of mankind for our principal object, it shall be our endeavour to co-operate with your Majesty's wise and pious government, in the suppression of every species of vice, immorality, and licentiousness, and in the encouragement of virtue and universal benevolence in the true spirit of our holy religion.

We beg leave to return our humble thanks to your Majesty, for your attention to the propagation of Christian Knowledge, and the principles of the reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands, where the interests of religion and government coincide in a particular manner.

It

It is our duty and inclination to attend to the disposal of your Majesty's royal donation with the most prudent care, and we shall apply ourselves on this occasion with the greatest earnestness to that interesting object.

The loyalty and integrity of Lord Cathcart, and his zeal for your Majesty's service, are so well known to us, and we have had such frequent experience of his abilities to discharge the duties of the high office with which your Majesty has intrusted him, and are so fully convinced of his attachment to the Church of Scotland, that we consider your Majesty's choice of him to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly as a gracious mark of your favour,—for which we beg leave to make our most thankful acknowledgments to your Majesty.

We are convinced, that the advancement of piety and virtue is the great design of our meeting, the promoting of which alone can render us worthy of your Majesty's favour and protection. This great object we shall have constantly in our view, and shall endeavour to conduct all our deliberations with the moderation and brotherly love so warmly recommended by your Majesty, and so becoming the character we bear.

That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may long preserve your Majesty to reign in the hearts of an affectionate people, and to be the watchful guardian of religion and liberty: That he may pour down his best blessings on your Royal Consort our most gracious Queen: That the divine favour may ever attend his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and all your Royal Family; and that after a long and happy reign on earth, you may enjoy the glorious Crown of Immortality thro' Jesus Christ our Lord:—These are, and ever shall be the earnest prayers of

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

DAVID SHAW, *Moderator.*

EDINBURGH, }
May 27. 1775. }

IV.

The General Assembly's Address of Condolance to his Majesty on the Death of the late Queen of Denmark.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, beg leave humbly to approach your Majesty with sentiments of respectful and sincere condolance, on occasion of the untimely death of your Majesty's Royal Sister the late Queen of Denmark.

Attached to your sacred person by affection no less than by duty, we are deeply interested in whatever affects our gracious Sovereign, and are most sincerely touched with an event, which, to the cares inseparable from Royalty, adds the feeling of domestic affliction.

Possessed, as we are, with reverence and with gratitude towards the illustrious House of Hanover, to which, under God, the nation is indebted for that full enjoyment of the Protestant religion, and of public liberty, which our ancestors were solicitous to secure, when they called it to the British throne, every loss sustained by your Majesty in your august family fills us with the most sincere concern.

That the God of Grace, and Father of Mercies, may on this occasion pour into your Royal heart those consolations which flow from sentiments of reverence for the Divine Government, and of dutiful submission to the Divine Will: That he may sanctify this national affliction, and, by graciously prolonging your valuable life, and that of our gracious Queen, and the lives of your Royal offspring, may afford us the comfortable prospect
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The Acts of the

of continuing to enjoy the many blessings by which we are distinguished from the nations around us,—are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }
May 30. 1775. }

DAVID SHAW, *Moderator.*



V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Rev. Dr David Shaw, Minister at Coyltoun, their Moderator, all the Ministers members of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr William M'Quhae at St Quivox, Mr Thomas Maxwell at Stewarton, Dr James Baillie at Hamilton, Mr Robert Inglis at Kirkmichael, Mr William Dun at Kirkintulloch, Mr Colin Campbell at

at Kilmorin, Mr David Campbell at Southend, Mr Robert Thomson at Killean, Mr Patrick Campbell at Glasgow, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchy, Mr Alexander M'Tavish at Morvern, Mr James Stewart at Killean, Mr Andrew Williamson at Arngosk, Mr James Campbell at Auchterarder, Mr James Dimmock at Aberfoyle, Mr Walter M'Alpin at Culross, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr Robert Preston at Cupar Fife, Mr William Vilant at Kingsbarns, Mr William Dow at Blairgoury, Mr James Donaldson at Glammis, Mr James Hunter at Monnekie, Mr John Aitken at St Vigents, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Principal Campbell at Aberdeen, Professor Gerard at Aberdeen, Dr John Ogilvy at Midmar, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Robert Gauld at Culsamond, Mr Charles Keay at Old Deer, Mr Robert Duff at King-Edward, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr John Cooper at Glas, Mr Algernoon Gordon at Keith, Mr John Grant at Dundurcas, Mr William Gordon at Alvie, Mr Thomas M'Farlane at Longbryde, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr Kenneth M'Aulay at Calder, Mr Robert Rose at Inverness, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir, Mr Patrick Grant at Nig, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, Mr William M'Queen at Snizort, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uist, Mr Donald M'Leod at Glenelg, Mr Hary Robertson at Clyne, Mr John Thomson at Diurness, Mr James Alison at Holm, Mr George Low at Birsay, Mr James Lesly at Rowsay, Mr John Ritchie at Abercorn, Mr William Howe at Skirling, Mr James Moffat at Newlands, Dr Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Dr Joseph M'Cormick at Prestonpans, Mr William Crombie at Spot, Mr Robert Hume at Polwart, Mr John Jollie at Coldingham, Mr Andrew Scot at Stitchill, Mr James Lawrie at Hawick, Mr James Ford at Lauder, Dr James Lorimer at Yarrow, Mr Andrew Jeffery at Ruthwell, Mr John Dow at Cannonbee, Dr John Walker at Moffat, Mr William Grierson at Glencairn, Mr Andrew Hunter at Dumfries, Mr John Scot at Tuynholm, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr James Mochrie at Colmanell, ministers; William Campbell younger of Fairfield, Esq; Hon. Mr Patrick Boyle, John Bushby of Auchingibbert, Esq; Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Mr James Colquhoun advocate, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Duncan Mac-Millan

Millan of Dunmore, Esq; Mr Archibald M'Donald advocate, Mr James Loch writer to the signet, Professor Williamson, Lord Stonefield, Mr Allan M'Dougall writer to the signet, Mr Neil Ferguson advocate, Mr Alexander Belsches advocate, Lord Alva, Bailie James Gentle brewer in Canongate, Mr Allan M'Connachie advocate, James Oswald of Dunnikier, Esq; Major John Melvil of Cairney, Professor George Hill, Hon. Baron Maule, Professor Thomas Gordon, the Procurator, Mr Cosmo Gordon advocate, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, Mr John Touch, Edinburgh, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant in Edinburgh, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Mr William Dunbar writer to the signet, Professor Dalziel, Edinburgh, David Ross of Innerhasley, Esq; James Wilkie of Rathobyres, Esq; George Buchan of Kello, Esq; Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, Mr Alexander Abercromby writer to the signet, Mr John Mosman merchant in Edinburgh, Coaveener Hart, Edinburgh, Bailie John Learmonth, Edinburgh, Bailie John Grieve, Edinburgh, Bailie John Brown, Edinburgh, the Right Hon. James Stoddart, Esq; Lord Provost of Edinburgh, John Home, Esq; Bailie Hew Dalrymple of North Berwick, Esq; the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron, the Right Hon. the Lord President, Charles Brown younger of Coalston, Esq; the Right Hon. the Lord Advocate, the Earl of Lauderdale, Patrick Brown of Barharrow, Esq; John M'Naught of Barncallie, Esq; John Hawthorn of Overairies, Esq; Mr William Scotland writer in Edinburgh, Bailie Thomas Elder, Edinburgh, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; James Durham of Largo, Esq; Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, and Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, Ruling Elders; to be a committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are to appoint preachers and catechists to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's

jeſty's deſign expreſſed in his warrant ; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uift, Small-Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moirdart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the ſynods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee ſhall find, by reaſon of their vaſt extent, by the prevalence of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs : And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies : Such preachers and catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of the preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly obſerved by them. And the preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick, and, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant Religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws : And the committee are impowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet ; which inſtructions the preachers and catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Aſſemblies ; and to take care that preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do : Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral preſbyteries to inſert in their registers, the committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations of the ſeveral miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them ; and to direct all their letters concerning miſſionaries

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missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the presbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts.— The General Assembly do also empower the said committee, to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accompts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly Isle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee, to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do, by these presents, nominate and appoint Mr David Dalrymple advocate,

advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said committee, and according to their rules. And the said committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lye on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the presbyteries concerned, such presbyteries shall send up to the said committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And impowered the committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

VI. Commission

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering that there are divers affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby *nominate, commissionate, and appoint* the Reverend Dr David Shaw, minister of the gospel at Coyltoun, their Moderator; and from the presbytery of Ayr, Dr John Drysdale one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Mr Andrew Shaw at Craigie, Mr Andrew Mitchell at Monk-toun, Mr Matthew Biggar at Kirkoswald, Mr William M'Quhae at St Quivox, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargennie, Esq; and William Campbell younger of Fairfield, Esq; ruling elders; From the burgh of Ayr, Mr John Murdoch writer there; From the presbytery of Irvine, Mr David M'Lellan at Beith, Mr Thomas Maxwell at Stewartoun, Mr John Moultrie at Kilmarnock, ministers, and the Hon. Patrick Boyle, ruling elder; From the burgh of Irvine, John Bushby of Auchingibbert, Esq; From the presbytery of Paisley, Mr John Wilson at Nielstoun, Mr Robert Boog of the Abbay Parish, Mr Colin Gilles at Greenock, ministers, and Bailie William Orr, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Robert Bell at Strathven, Dr James Baillie at Hamilton, Mr James Meek at Cambuslang, ministers, and Mr Robert Cullen advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Lanark, Mr Thomas Lining at Lesmahagow, Mr Robert Inglis at Carmichael, ministers, and Mr John Somerville at Strawpark, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lanark, Mr Richard Tod merchant in Leith; From the presbytery of Glasgow, Dr Robert Finlay at Glasgow, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, Mr John Burns at Glasgow, Mr William Dun at Kirkintulloch, ministers, Mr William Auchincloss merchant there, and Mr John Govan in Anderston, ruling elders; From the University of

of Glasgow, Professor William Wight ; From the presbytery of Dunbarton, Mr Archibald Smith at Strathblane, Mr David M'Gibbon at Buchanan, Mr James Carrick at Baldernock, ministers, and Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder ; From the burgh of Dunbarton, Mr James Colquhoun advocate ; From the presbytery of Denoon, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, Mr Colin Campbell at Kilmoden, ministers, and John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder ; From the burgh of Rothsay, Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; From the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr David Campbell at Southend, Mr Robert Thomson at Killeen, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmorie, ministers, and Mr Archibald M'Donald advocate, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Campbelton, Alexander Murray of Murrayfield, Esq; From the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Archibald Campbell at Inverary, Mr Peter Campbell at Glassry, ministers, and Mr James Loch writer to the signet, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Inverary, Professor James Williamson ; From the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at Glenorchy, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kinenver, ministers, and Lord Stonefield, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Mull, Mr Alexander M'Tavish at Movern, Mr Charles Campbell at Tyrie, ministers, and Mr Allan M'Dougal writer to the signet, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr James Stewart at Killin, Mr James Gow at Cargill, Mr James Hunter at Auchtergovan, Mr John Scot at Kinclivan, ministers, Mr Neil Ferguson advocate, and Mr William Elder of Loaning, ruling elders ; From the presbytery of Perth, Mr Andrew Williamson at Arngosk, Mr William Taylor at Rhynd, Mr James Scot at Perth, Mr Hamilton Kilgour at Collace, ministers, Mr Alexander Belsches advocate, and Bailie John Caw merchant there, ruling elders : From the presbytery of Stirling, Mr John Duncan at Alva, Mr William Nimmo at Bothkennar, ministers, and Lord Alva, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Stirling, Mr John Haddoway merchant in Leith ; From the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr John Scot at Muthill, Mr James Campbell at Auchterarder, ministers, and Bailie James Gentle, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Dimmock at Aberfoil, Mr William Osburn at Tillicoultry, ministers, and John

Graham younger of Meiklewood, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr James Reid at Beath, Mr Walter MacAlpine at Culrois, ministers, and Dr John Steadman physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Dunfermline, Allan M'Connochie of Meadowbank, Esq; From the burgh of Inverkeithing, Bailie James Young; From the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Thomas Hardy at Ballingrey, ministers, and James Oswald of Dunnikier, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Esq; From the burgh of Burntisland, Mr John Hoy merchant there; From the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Robert Preston at Cupar, Mr James Bruce at Dunbog, Mr John Stark at Balmerino, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, ministers, the Hon. Captain Frederick Maitland, and Major John Melvill of Cairnie, ruling elders; From the presbytery of St Andrews, Mr William Vilant at Kingsbarns, Mr David Burn at Largo, Mr Robert Dalgleish at Ferry, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, ministers, Professor George Hill, and James Durham of Largo, Esq; ruling elders; From the burgh of St Andrews, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh; From the burgh of Anstruther Easter, Alexander Hart of Baltully, Esq; From the burgh of Kilrennie, Mr Walter Coffar deputy-comptroller of Excise; From the presbytery of Meigle, Mr William Dow at Blairgowrie, Mr James Playfair at Newtyld, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, ministers, and Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Forfar, Mr James Donaldson at Glammis, Mr Charles Gordon at Cortachie and Clova, ministers, and John Adam of Maryburgh, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Hunter at Monekie, Mr John Snodgrass at Dundee, Mr James Scot at Auchterhouse, ministers, and Conveener Andrew Jobson, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr John Aitken at St Viggians, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, ministers, and the Hon. Baron Maule, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Brechin, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr Daniel Bryce at Logie-Port, Mr John Pierie at Lochlee, ministers, and Mr John Scot advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Montrose, Captain Robert Moodie
shipmaster

shipmaster in Leith ; From the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, Mr John Brymer at Marykirk, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, ministers, and Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Bervie, Mr Joseph Gavin merchant in Edinburgh ; From the presbytery of Aberdeen, Principal George Campbell, Professor Alexander Gerard, Mr Robert Lumsden at New Machar, Mr Patrick Duff at Old Machar, ministers, Sir James Cockburn, Bart. and James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; ruling elders ; From the presbytery of Kincardine-O'Niel, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr John Ramsay at Strathaven, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, ministers, and Mr Neil M'Innes at Kyanord, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Ellon, Mr William Paterson at Logie, Mr William Duff at Foveran, ministers, and Professor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Garioch, Mr John Lickly at Old Meldrum, Mr John Mair at Rayne, Mr Robert Gauld at Culsamond, ministers, and Mr David Dalrymple advocate, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Deer, Mr William Taylor at New Deer, Mr John Lundie at Lonmey, Mr Charles Keay at Old Deer, ministers, and Mr John Taylor writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Turreff, Mr Robert Duff at King-Edward, Mr Thomas Wilson at Gamore, ministers, and Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, ministers, and Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Cullen, the Hon. Charles Hope-Weir, Esq; From the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Cooper at Glas, Mr Algernoon Gordon at Keith, ministers, and Mr Cosmo Gordon advocate, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Dundurcas, Mr James Thomson at Aberlour, ministers, and Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr William Blair at Kinguisie, Mr William Gordon at Alvie, ministers, and Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Elgin, Mr Joseph Anderson at Birney, Mr Thomas M'Farlane at Longbride, ministers ; and Mr John Touch, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt

Watt at Forres, Mr James Hay at Dallas, ministers, and Mr Andrew M'Ara merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Forres, Mr Charles Grant advocate; From the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Kenneth M'Aulay at Calder, Mr Walter Morison at Ardersier, ministers, and Bailie John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Nairn, Mr William Dunbar writer to the signet; From the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Malcolm Nicolson at Kiltarlity, Mr Robert Rose at Inverness, ministers, and Professor Andrew Dalziel, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, ministers, and Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Tain, Mr Patrick Grant at Nigg, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, ministers, and David Ross of Innerhasley, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; From the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr Colin M'Kenzie at Fodderty, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, ministers, and Mr Walter Gibson surgeon in Leith, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Sky, Mr William M'Queen at Snizort, Mr Martin M'Pherson at Slate, ministers, and James Wilkie of Rathobyres, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Uist, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uist, Mr John Bethune at Harris, ministers, and George Buchan of Kello, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Gairloch, Mr Donald M'Leod at Glenelg, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalsh, ministers, and William M'Donald of Rinnetan, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dornock, Mr John Sutherland at Dornock, Mr Hary Robertson at Clyne, ministers, and Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the signet, ruling elder; From the burgh of Dornock, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; From the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillis, Mr John Thomson at Durness, ministers, and Mr John Mosman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews and Dearness, Mr James Alison at Holm, ministers, and Mr Charles Howison master-carpenter to the Board of Ordnance, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Cairnston, Mr George Low at Birsay, Mr James Bremner at Walls, ministers, and Conveener Orlando Hart

Hart, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of North Isles, Mr Alexander Pitcairn at Shapinsay, Mr James Lesly at Rousay, ministers, and Bailie John Learmonth merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Zetland, Mr James Finlayson at Sandsting, Mr David M'Robert at Nesting, ministers, and Bailie John Grieve merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr Patrick Cuming, Dr Alexander Webster, Dr Robert Henry, Mr John Gibson at West-kirk, Mr David Johnston at North Leith, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, ministers, and Provost Gilbert Laurie, Bailie Thomas Elder, and Bailie John Brown, ruling elders ; From the city of Edinburgh, the Right Hon. James Stoddart, Esq; Lord Provost, and Conveener Thomas Simpson ; From the university of Edinburgh, Principal Robertson ; From the Church of Campvere, Mr James Yair, minister, and John Home, Esq; ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr Charles Wilkie at Ecclesmachin, Mr Adam Wedderston at Bathgate, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenside, Mr John Ritchie at Abercorn, ministers, Mr Charles Addison merchant in Borrowstounness, and Mr James Taylor in Queensferry, ruling elders ; From the burgh of Linlithgow, Bailie Robert Clark ; From the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan merchant there ; From the presbytery of Biggar, Mr George Mark at Covington, Mr William Howe at Skirling, Mr James Ferguson at Dolphington, ministers, and Mr John Dickson advocate, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Peebles, Mr James Moffat at Peebles, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddleston, ministers, and the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr William Sprott at Fala, ministers, and the Right Hon. the Lord President, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Haddington, Dr Joseph M'Cormick at Prestonpans, Mr James Innes at Yester, Mr Neil Roy at Aberlady, ministers, and Charles Brown younger of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder ; From the burgh of Haddington, Francis Kinloch younger of Gilmerton, Esq; From the burgh of North Berwick, Bailie Hew Dalrymple ; From the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr William Crombie at Spott, Mr George Bruce at Dunbar, ministers, and Hugh Dalrymple

rymple of Nunraw, Esq; ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Dunfe, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr John Sked at Abbay, ministers, and Matthew Sandilands of Cowston, Esq; ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Chirnside, Mr John Jolly at Coldingham, Mr James Smith at Mordington, ministers, and Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Kelfo, Mr Joseph Leck at Yetholm, Mr Andrew Scot at Stitchill, ministers, and the Right Hon. the Lord Advocate, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr James Lawrie at Hawick, Mr James Richardson at Oxnam, Mr George Dickson at Bedrule, ministers, and Mr John Lawrie preacher of the gospel, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Lauder, Mr James Ford at Lauder, Mr Abraham Ker at Nenthorn, ministers, and the Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Lauder, Mr Thomas Hog advocate ; From the presbytery of Selkirk, Dr James Lorimer at Yarrow, Mr Robert Gillon at Lassudden, ministers, and Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Annan, Mr Andrew Jaffray at Ruthwell, Mr Andrew Yorston at Middlebie, ministers, and Robert Irvine of Woodhall, Esq; ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Robert Rutherford at Castletown, Mr John Dowe at Canonbie, ministers, and Mr William Scotland writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Edward M'Whinnie at Applegirth, Mr Richard Brown at Lochmaben, Dr John Walker at Moffat, ministers, and William Hay of Crawfordtown, Esq; ruling elder ; From the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; From the presbytery of Penpont, Mr William Grierison at Glencairn, Mr John Robertson at Kirkconnel, ministers, and Mr John Thomson schoolmaster at Findron, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Archibald Lawson at Kirkmahoe, Mr Andrew Hunter at Dumfries, Mr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, ministers, and Mr Charles Barry in Nethertown, ruling elder ; From the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Cooper at Grithon, Mr John Scot at Twynholm, Mr Samuel Martin at Balmagie, ministers, and Mr Robert Ramsay in Morrington, ruling elder ; From the burgh of Kirkcudbright, John M'Naught of Barncallie, Esq; From the presbytery of Wigtown, Mr Ebenezer Stote at Minnigaff,

nigaff, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, ministers, and John Hathorn of Overairies, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Whithorn, Patrick Brown of Barharrow, Esq; From the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr James Mochrie at Colmonnel, Mr James Caddel at Newluce, ministers, and Mr John M'Bride of Knockybay, ruling elder; to be commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after-mentioned; with power to the said commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said commissioners, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets: and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force, till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same
were

were specially here insert ; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith* ; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end : Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct ; and give directions about printing the same. And the commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correspondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein ; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged, to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned : And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same ; declaring, that in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said commissioners, particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money ; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And

And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed ; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission ; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof ; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same : And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlements of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, That when any presbytery or synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting as has been sometimes the practice, but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further empower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission : And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly 1736.

VII.

**Act appointing the Diet of the next
General Assembly.**

THE next General Assembly of this National Church
is appointed to be held in this place on Thursday
the 23d day of May, in the year 1776.

*Collected and extracted from the Records of the
General Assembly, by*

GEORGE WISHART, Cls. Ecc. Scot.

[*The General Assembly re-transmits to Presbyteries the following Overtures.*]

OVERTURE from the Presbytery of Edinburgh, anent Probationers being licensed without the bounds of the Church.

Edinburgh, March 30. 1774.

THE Presbytery met and constitute, and had laid before them the following Overture: Whereas it is a matter of the greatest importance to the interests of religion, to prevent persons not duly qualified from becoming preachers and ministers of the gospel; and as it has often been complained of, that persons not qualified according to the acts of this Church, have retired out of its bounds to places where they were not well known, and have obtained licence to preach, or been ordained ministers of the gospel: Therefore the presbytery of Edinburgh overture to the General Assembly, to prohibit all persons educated or residing within the bounds of this Church, from going out of its bounds to obtain licences to preach; and to prohibit all preachers licensed by this Church, from going without its bounds to obtain ordination, unless they are called to a particular congregation in another country; and to enact, that licences obtained in that manner shall not be received, or have any effect in this Church; and that such preachers as contraveen this act, shall forfeit the licence formerly given them, and be no longer intitled to the privileges which belong to a preacher of the gospel in this Church. The Presbytery approved of the above Overture, and ordered their clerk to transmit the same to the next General Assembly.

Extracted by

JAMES CRAIG, *Presbytery Clerk.*

OVERTURE

OVERTURE anent the Age of Ruling Elders, and the electing them to represent Sessions in the Presbytery and Synod.

THE General Assembly called for an Overture anent the age of Ruling Elders, and the electing them to represent sessions in the presbytery and Synod, which was given in to the General Assembly 1771, and by them ordered to lye over till Assembly 1772, which was read, and is as follows: *Primo*, That no person shall be ordained an Elder of this Church before he is twenty-one years of age compleat. *Secundo*, That all Presbytery Elders shall be elected within two months after the sitting of Synod, to attend the Presbytery and ensuing Synod of that bounds; and in case of death or demission, a new Elder shall be made within one month of the same. *Tertio*, That every Elder so chosen shall produce an extract of his election under the hand of the Session-clerk, before he be received on the roll of either Presbytery or Synod. The General Assembly ordered the above to be re-transmitted as an Overture to the several Presbyteries, and appoints them to return their opinions thereupon to the next General Assembly.

“ UPON report from the committee for Overtures concerning Overtures formerly transmitted to Presbyteries, by which it appears, *Primo*, With respect to the Overtures anent the age of Ruling Elders, and the electing them to represent sessions in the Presbyteries and Synods, which was first transmitted by the Assembly 1772, that there is not one half of the number of Presbyteries agreeing to the Overture, and that a considerable number have sent no returns upon it, which being considered by the Assembly, together with the report of their

their committee, the General Assembly re-transmits the said Overture, at the same time expressing their concern that many presbyteries should be so remiss in these matters, and do hereby enjoin them to be more careful and attentive to consider Overtures transmitted to them, and to return opinions thereupon. *Secundo*, With respect to the Overture anent persons going to be licensed or ordained without the bounds of this Church, transmitted by the last Assembly, it appears, that not above seventeen or eighteen presbyteries have returned any opinion upon it at all; which being considered by the Assembly, together with an Overture of their committee thereupon, they do hereby re-transmit the said Overture; and the General Assembly considering this Overture as of special importance, do appoint the several synods, at each of their meetings, before the next Assembly, to inquire at the presbyteries within their bounds, whether or not they have considered this Overture; and if any of them have not, that the synods shall enjoin them to meet before the Assembly, and comply with the Assembly's appointment.

H

A TABLE

A

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O F T H E

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the Year 1775, which are not printed at full Length.

May 25. 1775. Sess. 1st.

AFTER sermon by the Rev. Dr Robert Henry, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house, and after prayer by the said Dr Robert Henry, Dr David Shaw, minister at Coyltoun, was unanimously chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Hon. Charles Lord Cathcart, to represent his Majesty's royal person, read, and recorded.

The King's most gracious letter to the Assembly, read, and recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

There was presented, a letter addressed to the Moderator, from Mr James Edmonston sub-clerk of Assembly, begging the Assembly would excuse his non-attendance, in regard of his present situation; and recommending George Cairncross writer in Edinburgh, as a proper person to officiate for him. The Assembly granted Mr Edmonston's request, and appointed Mr Cairncross to officiate in his place as sub-clerk.

His Majesty's royal warrant for L.1000 Sterling, delivered in to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A

I N D E X 1775.

A committee named for answering the King's most gracious letter.

A committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from diets thereof; naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner; receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

May 26. 1775. *Sess. 2d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

A diet spent in prayer.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner.

The committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1775. *Sess. 3d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious letter to this Assembly brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The roll of causes transmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

Resolve anent taking in causes.

The committee for overtures empowered to receive in, from the several members, any instructions given to them by their respective synods or presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and to receive in, and consider

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consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A committee named to audite the procurator and agent's accompts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

A committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the committee named by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

The Synod-books called for.

A committee named to revise the Synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr.

A committee named to revise the Synod-book of Aberdeen.

The Synod-books of Argyle, Perth and Stirling, Fife, Angus and Mearns, Murray, Ross, Glenelg, Sutherland and Caithness, Orkney, Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotdale, Dumfries, Galloway, and the Presbytery-book of Zetland, not being brought up to the Assembly, resolved, that the reasons thereof be inquired into.

The report of the committee for revising commissions having passed the committee for overtures, the same was called for, and read.

The commission from the burgh of Lauder rejected, on account of the election and resolution to elect being on the same day. And the Assembly delayed the consideration of the objection to the commission from the presbytery of Glasgow till Monday.

The minutes of the committee of last Assembly anent Mr Robert Finlay, together with the evidence and report of the said committee, were delivered into the Assembly by Dr Robert Henry Moderator of last Assembly, and Moderator of the said committee, and ordered to lye upon the table.

A petition and complaint by the Rev. Mess. William Grant, Gordon, Stewart, M'Aulay, Drummond, Graham, and Bruce, members of the presbytery of
I Dumbarton

Dumbarton, with respect to the illegality of the proceedings of said presbytery in attesting their commission, heard. The General Assembly did, without a vote, find the commission to the members from the presbytery of Dumbarton not legally attested, and therefore rejected the same. Mr Archibald Lawton, Mr Richard Brown, and Mr James Mochrie, desired it might be marked, that they did not acquiesce in said sentence. The Assembly sustained the commission from the burgh of Dumbarton.

Upon a motion, the minutes of the committee of last Assembly anent the affair of Mr Robert Finlay, and opinion of the committee thereupon, were read, and the Assembly appointed this affair to be considered on Tuesday next.

The committee for revising commissions appointed to meet on Monday morning at ten o'clock, in the Society Hall; the committee for overtures and bills to meet at six o'clock this evening, in their usual places. Adjournment.

May 29. 1775. *Sess. 4th.*

Sederunt.

New commission produced.

Upon reading the minutes of Saturday anent the Assembly's judgment rejecting the commission from the presbytery of Dumbarton, the General Assembly appointed the said presbytery to meet on the third Tuesday of June next, and then to constitute and proceed in the exercise of their ordinary judicial capacity.

An objection to the commission from the presbytery of Glasgow heard: The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the commission.

Objections to the commission from the burgh of Irvine heard: The Assembly repelled the objections, and sustained the commission.

Objections to the commission from the burgh of Burntisland heard; the objections repelled, and the commission sustained.

Upon a motion, the Assembly appointed a committee to draw up an address of condolence to his Majesty, on the death of the late Queen of Denmark.

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The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read over.

A committee appointed to consider an overture from the synod of Dumfries, anent students of divinity.

A committee appointed to consider an overture from the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, anent the Psalmody, to report if possible to this Assembly, if not, to be a standing committee, and to report to the ensuing Assembly.

The Assembly remitted the overture from the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale anent irregular marriages back to the said synod, that they may suggest what may be necessary or most effectual for remedying the evil complained of.

At the request of Dr Wishart, a committee appointed to inspect his accompts of the money contributed towards an application to Parliament respecting the Window Tax, since his last accompts given in to Assembly 1770.

An appeal of Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, Baronet, patron of the parish of Grange, Dame Margaret Forbes his commissioner, and Mr John Bonnyman presentee to said parish, against a sentence of the presbytery of Strathbogie, rejecting the presentation, and finding the *jus devolutum* had fallen into the hands of the presbytery, heard. The General Assembly did, without a vote, come to the following resolution, *viz.* The Assembly do allow the appellants to produce to the presbytery of Strathbogie, on or before the third Wednesday of July next, on which day the said presbytery is hereby appointed to meet, what writings or evidences they have in support of the presentation that has been already granted by Lady Forbes; and the Assembly do remit this affair to said presbytery, with this instruction, that they shall on the above-mentioned day, whether any further evidence be produced or not, take the whole cause under consideration, and give judgment thereupon according to the rules of the Church.

Upon a motion, the Assembly delayed the cause of North Knapdale till Thursday next, and appointed it to be then heard as the first private cause.

The

The petition of Mr Abraham Ker minister at Nenthorn, craving the disjunction of the parish of Nenthorn from the presbytery of Lauder to the presbytery of Kelfo, heard. The General Assembly remitted to the presbytery of Lauder, to cause intimation be made on such a day as the presbytery shall think proper, to the heretors of Nenthorn to meet together, in order to show cause why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

Resolve anent a cause.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1775. Sess. 5th.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read over.

The draught of an address of condolance to his Majesty, on the death of the late Queen of Denmark, brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

There was transmittted from the committee for overtures two overtures, one from the synod of Dumfries, and the other from a private contributor, relating to the Widows Fund. The Assembly delayed the consideration of these overtures till a committee be appointed to meet with the Trustees of the Widows Fund.

A representation for the Trustees of the Widows Fund, and alterations proposed to be made on the plan of the scheme, was given in by Mr Robert Walker preses of the Trustees; also proposed alterations on the plan of the Scheme transmittted by last and former Assemblies; with reports given in from the presbyteries and universities on said alterations. A committee appointed to meet with the Trustees, to consider the said representation, &c. and to report on Friday next.

Mr Allan M'Connochie advocate appeared at the bar, and purged the objection to his commission, by signing the *Formula* in presence of the Assembly.

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The General Assembly took into consideration the report of the committee of last Assembly, anent Mr Robert Finlay minister at Dollar. The petition and complaint given in to last Assembly against Mr Finlay was called for, together with the minutes of last Assembly on the 27th of May, and the minutes of the said committee, with the evidences taken by them in the course of their enquiry, were read all over. The General Assembly adopted the advice and opinion with which the committee concludes their report, *viz.* That in case Mr Finlay shall make such acknowledgments to the next General Assembly, as may show that he has a due sense of what may have been irregular and improper in his conduct at the admission of Mr Thomson to be minister of St Ninians, and, in particular, as may serve to excuse him for his not having put the ordinary questions to Mr Thomson at that time, or for any other neglect into which he may have fallen: In that case, the committee humbly think it advisable for the General Assembly, to pronounce a mild censure upon Mr Finlay. But if Mr Finlay shall decline or refuse to make any such acknowledgments, the General Assembly should order a libel to be raised against him, and proceeded in according to the rules of the Church. Mr Finlay compeared at the bar of his own accord, and made an acknowledgment, which several members at a distance not having heard distinctly, he offered to dictate to the clerk; and this he did as follows: “ I am sensible, that my charge to
 “ Mr Thomson at St Ninians, has made a great noise
 “ in this kingdom, and given great offence to many of my brethren; and I acknowledge, that tho’
 “ that charge was calculated for a presbytery-table,
 “ for which it was originally designed, yet it was by
 “ no means proper for a pulpit, for which I never
 “ intended it. I also acknowledge, that my neglect-
 “ ing to put the questions to Mr Thomson, usually
 “ put to intrants upon such occasions, was irregular,
 “ and contrary to form, and I am heartily sorry on
 “ account of that omission.—I hope the Venerable
 “ Assembly will accept this frank acknowledgment of
 “ the impropriety and irregularity of my behaviour
 “ in these respects, and impute my having acted in
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“ this manner to the peculiarly difficult situation I
 “ was then in, rather than to any contempt of the
 “ authority of this Church, the remotest tendency
 “ to which, if I know any thing of my own heart,
 “ I abhor; for I have given as strong an instance of
 “ my obedience to the authority of this Church as e-
 “ ver was known in it, as I admitted Mr Thomson
 “ when no other member of the presbytery was will-
 “ ing to admit him.”—The Assembly appointed Mr
 Finlay to be sharply rebuked, for the impropriety and
 irregularity of his conduct at the admission of Mr
 Thomson at St Ninians; which was done according-
 ly by the Moderator.

The committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow
 at ten o'clock, in their usual place.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1775. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produ-
 ced, and read over. And upon a motion, the As-
 sembly referred a petition for Mary Blackstock to the
 Procurator, to consider the same, and report.

Resolve anent a cause.

The petition of the commissioners from the presbytery of
 Kirkcudbright, anent Mr Gordon minister at Anwoth,
 in obedience to the act of Assembly 1753, read; and
 it appearing to the Assembly, from the representation
 therein given, that Mr Gordon was unacquainted with
 the transaction, and that the presbytery had done
 their duty, ordered this sentence to be extracted, and
 recorded in their presbytery-book.

An appeal by the presbytery of Hamilton from a sen-
 tence of the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, heard. The
 Assembly unanimously dismiss this process, in respect
 the parties were not regularly before said presbytery,
 and do hereby set aside the whole procedure posterior
 to the 1st of September last, had therein by the pres-
 bytery of Hamilton and synod of Glasgow and Ayr,
 waving the consideration of said presbytery on that
 day, respecting the objections offered by the parish-
 oners of Cambuslang; but sustain the admission of Mr
 James Meek as minister of Cambuslang.

A

I N D E X 1775.

A committee appointed to revise the synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale.

The committee of overtures appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock, and the committee for bills to-morrow at ten, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

June 1. 1775. Sess. 7th.

Sederunt.

The two overtures formerly transmitted, the one anent the age of ruling elders, and electing them to represent sessions in presbyteries and synods, and the other anent persons going to be licensed or ordained without the bounds of this Church, are re-transmitted to presbyteries, with special injunctions from the Assembly about sending returns to them.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

The Procurator, Agent, and Stationer's accompts, produced, and ordered to lye on the table.

Upon a motion, the General Assembly recommend to all those ministers who have not yet made the collection appointed by the last Assembly for the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, to make the same with all convenient speed.

A petition for his Majesty's Officers of State for his Majesty's interest, and a petition for Dugald M'Tavish of Dunardary, Esq; patron, and the heretors, elders, and parishioners of North Knapdale, concurring with his presentation to Mr M'Kinnon, together with a reference from the presbytery of Inverary, heard. The General Assembly agreed to advise, and hereby do advise the presbytery of Inverary to delay further proceeding in the settlement of North Knapdale for a *reasonable* time, that the competing patrons may have an opportunity to have the right of presentation decided by the civil court.

Resolve anent a cause.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

June

I N D E X 1775.

June 2. 1775. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

The opinion of the Procurator anent the petition of Mary Blackstock in Windyhall, in the parish of Ruthwell, given in, read, and approved of; and the Assembly refuse the petition of the said Mary Blackstock, and remove the suspension of Thomas Kennedy from sealing-ordinances, and restore him to all the privileges of the Church, reserving to Mary Blackstock her declarator of marriage, and the cognizance of the proper ecclesiastical courts, when the same shall be produced and laid before them.

It being represented by the committee appointed to consider the overture anent students of divinity, that they had not had time to consider this matter maturely, a small committee was appointed to draw up an overture upon it, to be reported to next Assembly. Dr Cuming to be conveener of this committee.

The report of the committee for the better ordering of the Assembly-house called for, read, and approved of; and the Assembly exoner and discharge Mr James Brown of his intromissions therein mentioned. The thanks of the House was given to Mr Brown for his care and diligence in this matter, and ordered an extract hereof to be given to him, and the vouchers to be lodged in the clerk's hands to be kept *in retentis*.

The report of the committee appointed to meet with the Trustees of the Widows Fund called for, given in, and read; and the Assembly having considered the same, did approve of the thirteen articles contained in the representation of the Trustees, transmitted by last Assembly to presbyteries and universities, with some small variations mentioned in the committee's report, and suggested by some members; and finding that the foresaid articles were so generally agreeable to contributors, resolved, That the articles, as now adjusted, should be comprehended in the application to be made to Parliament for a new statute respecting the fund.—Then Mr Ferguson's five proposals, which had been transmitted by last Assembly along with the foresaid representation, being read, the Assembly,
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upon the report of their committee, agreed to set aside the first four proposals as they now stand, finding them to be disapproved by a majority of contributors, who have signified their opinion thereanent; but sustained the fifth proposal, as being agreeable to contributors; and were of opinion, that the last clause of the fourth, viz. "That it shall be competent to elect one or two, but no greater number, to exercise the Collectorship," was proper and reasonable.—The Assembly then took into consideration the report of the committee respecting some new proposals suggested by the Trustees, and agreed to transmit the same to presbyteries and universities for the consideration of contributors within their respective bounds.—A committee appointed to meet with the committee of the Trustees, to take into consideration proposals from the presbyteries of Glasgow and Auchterarder, contained in the representation of the Trustees to this Assembly, relative to the election of Collector and Clerk.—Overture from the synod of Dumfries, and proposals by a particular member of that synod, remitted to the consideration of the Trustees.

Resolve anent a cause.

A committee appointed to revise the synod-book of Perth and Stirling.

The members of the several synods are appointed to meet at the rising of this sederunt, in their usual places, in order to name the nominators of the Commission, and to lodge their nomination with the clerks to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock, in the Society-hall.

Adjournment.

June 3. 1775. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

New commission produced.

The report of the Trustees of the fund for a provision to ministers widows, &c. produced, and ordered to lye upon the table till another diet.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the proposals from the presbyteries of Glasgow and Auchterarder, called for, produced, and read. The Assembly, upon a motion by one of the members, remitted

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consideration of the same to the Trustees, that they, or their committee, together with the Assembly's committee, may prepare proposals respecting the constitution of the Court of Trustees, and what else might occur to them as proper relative to this subject, and transmit the same on or before the 1st day of July next, together with the proposals already ordered to be transmitted to presbyteries and universities, for the consideration of contributors within their respective bounds : And the Assembly require them to transmit their opinion on these points to the Trustees, on or before the 1st day of January next ; with certification, that if they neglect so to do, they shall be held as consenting to the proposals.

Act approving the accompt of Mr David Dalrymple procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 373 : 1 : 5 Sterling ; and ordering that he debit himself in his next accompt for the sum of L. 272 : 6 : 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act approving the accompt of James Edmonstone agent for the Church, and sub-clerk to the General Assembly ; and appointing that he should have credit in his next accompt for the sum of L. 15 : 16 : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving the accompt of William Miller stationer to the Church.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-book, given in and read, who reported, that they had no remarks, except as to the complaint to be brought into the Assembly by the elders of the parish of Keith. The Assembly delayed judging of their conduct till that complaint was heard.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the Commission, and drawing instructions to them, given in and approved of. The members from the presbytery of Dumbarton, and burgh of Lauder, who were rejected upon informalities in their commissions, and Dr John Drysdale, in place of the Moderator, were added thereto.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty Register, given in, and read. The conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

I N D E X 1775.

A committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

A petition and complaint of William Lesle and others, elders of the parish of Keith, against the Commission of last Assembly, read. The General Assembly did, without a vote, dismiss this petition, in respect there is no complaint in the said petition of the Commission's having exceeded their powers.

An appeal of the donors for purchasing and building the meeting-house at Dunfermline, occupied by the late Mr Gillespie, against a sentence of the presbytery of Dunfermline, refusing a petition at their instance, praying that they might be received into communion with the Church of Scotland, heard. The General Assembly do find, That in respect this cause comes before them in a crude state, neither the terms of the original application being sufficiently clear, nor the facts relative thereto sufficiently understood and explained, the Assembly do remit this cause to the presbytery of Dunfermline to settle what is now dubious concerning the jurisdiction of the kirk-session, the administration of the poor's funds, and every other circumstance requisite to be known, in order to determine the propriety of granting or rejecting this petition for a Chapel of Ease.

Resolve anent a cause.

Adjournment.

June 5. 1775. Sess. ult.

Sederunt.

A letter from the Secretary of State to the Moderator of this Assembly, acknowledging the receipt of the Assembly's answer to the King's most gracious letter, was given in, and read.

The Synod-book of Perth and Stirling attested.

The Synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr attested.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale attested.

No report from the visitors of the Synod-book of Aberdeen. The Assembly appointed the visitors to give in their report to the Commission.

The Assembly ordered all the synods whose books had not been sent up to this Assembly, to be sent up to
next

I N D E X 1775.

next Assembly, viz. Argyle, Fife, Angus and Mearns, Murray, Ross, Glenelg, Suherland and Caithness, Orkney, Merse and Teviotdale, Dumfries, Galloway, and the presbytery-book of Zetland.

The committee on the Window-tax continued with the same powers as appointed by last and former Assemblies.

The committee on the Enzie-fund continued with the same powers as appointed by former Assemblies, and added thereto Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet.

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly to consider the overture aient the increase of Popery, called for, given in, read, and approven of, and the committee continued.

The General Assembly renews the recommendation to presbyteries respecting parochial schools, and appoint the several synods to inquire into the diligence of the presbyteries in this matter within their several bounds, and report to the next Assembly.

The report of the Trustees for managing the fund for a provision to ministers widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-book given in and read, and the Commission's conduct approven of. The Assembly's thanks given from the chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and their book ordered to be attested.

List of probationers produced, and their number ordered to be recorded.

The report of the committee appointed to examine Dr Wishart's accompts, concerning the money contributed towards an application to Parliament respecting the Window-tax, given in and read; bearing, that they had audited the same from the 1st of June 1770, when his last accompts were given in to the General Assembly, to the 21st of May 1774. [N. B. *There has been no money received or given out by Dr Wishart on the said fund since that time.*] And finding, by the amount of charge and discharge, (the articles of discharge

charge being all regularly vouched) that there was a balance in his hands on the said 21st of May 1774, of L. 106, which he then lodged with Mess. Mansfield, Hunter, and Co. agreeable to the direction of the committee of Assembly 1768, appointing him to lodge such balances in the said house: Giving it therefore as their opinion, that the Assembly should discharge Dr Wishart of all his intromissions with the money contributed for the foresaid purpose, and should approve of his having lodged the said balance in the hands of Mess. Mansfield, &c. upon their bill, bearing interest at 4 *per cent.* from said 21st of May 1774, the bill being left in his hands, which he shall deliver up when required; or in case the whole, or any part of the said sum, is repaid by the said Mess. Mansfield, &c. that he shall charge himself with the same. The Assembly approves of the report, and agrees to the opinion of the committee, it being understood, that the said balance of L. 106 is lodged in the hands of Mess. Mansfield, Hunter, and Co. at the risk of the contributors; discharges Dr Wishart of all the sums received by him, he being always liable to make the said bill furthcoming, in terms of the committee's report. The thanks of the House given to Dr Wishart, for his care and attention in this matter.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission, with powers to them to judge and finally determine therein; and the causes marked on the Assembly-roll, appointed to be taken up by the Commission in their order.

A petition from the presbytery of Gairloch, anent their presbytery-seat, read. The Assembly unanimously changed the name of the presbytery from that of Gairloch to the name of Lochcarron, and ordained the same to be called the *Presbytery of Lochcarron* in all time coming; and also ordains the presbytery to extract this judgment, and give it in to the clerk of Supply for the county, that he may lay the same before the Commissioners of Supply, and request them to make the same alteration.

A petition of the Assembly officers was read. The Assembly referred the same to the committee for repair-

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ing the Assembly-house, and continued the said committee with the same powers as appointed by last and former Assemblies.

Protestation admitted.

A committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all the other meetings thereof, and to pitch upon such of the acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's sederunt were read, the minutes of former sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, and singing of psalms.

F I N I S.

